Liberhan Comission of Inquiry

3648. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Liberhan Commission of Inquiry on the demolition of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1996 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the present status of the title suit before the Special Bench of the Allahabad High Court; and

(c) the number of persons under prosecution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Special Full Bench hearing the title suits has started recording of oral evidence in the leading suit of Sunni Waqf Board w.e.f. 24.7.96. Till 4.12.96, six witnesses presented by the Board have been examined/ cross examined and their testimony recorded by the Court. Recording of evidence is continuing.

(c) Independently, on the basis of the investigations carried out by it, into the offences connected with the demolition of the disputed structure on 6th December, 1992, etc., CBI had filed a combined chargesheet against 49 persons before the Special Court at Lucknow. All these cases have been committed for trial to the Court of Special Additional Session Judge, Lucknow.

[Translation]

Participation to State Government in Financial matters

3649. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the programme chalked out by the Government to give more and more participation to the State Government in the matter of finance;

(b) the steps taken to implement the programme chalked out in the meeting of the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers; and

(c) whether more programmes would be chalked out for this due to which the Ninth Five Year Plan is being delayed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). During the Second meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 15.10.1996, the methodology for examination of 44 recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Financial relations was considered. The Council recommended that there should be a Standing Committee of the Council. The Standing Committee, it was further recommended, would review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission especially the vital question of devolution of financial powers from the Central Government to the State Governments. It was also decided that the Standing Committee would be required to give its report within three months and the same would be considered immediately thereafter by the Council.

[English]

Import of Urea

3650. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import urea from Libya through the long-term contracts;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries;

(c) if so, the total urea being imported during 1995-96;

(d) the prices offered by Libya; and

(e) the other countries with whom contracts have been signed for the supply of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (e). The imports of urea on Government account are canalised through designated agencies. These agencies have been procuring urea through tenders as well as through long-term contracts with producers of urea.

The urea imports during 1995-96 were 37.82 lakh metric tonnes, of which 3.70 lakh metric tonnes was procured from Libya at the weighted average C&F price of Rs.7221.08 per metric tonne

Botanical Survey of India

3651. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to mismanagement of the Botanical Survey of India, protection of old trees and rare plants has been neglected at Sibpur Botanical Garden, Howrah, West Bengal;

(b) whether posts of a number of scientists are lying vacant for the last 7-8 years and no one is prepared to go there for the Internal click of BSI and field level management at the Botanical Garden;

(c) whether representations have also been received from the Confederation of Central Government Employees and workers regarding the settlements of certain issues concerning the employees of BSI;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to settle the matter?